the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

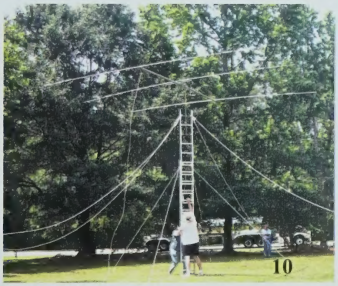
RARS

Worldwide Friendship

August 2005, Number 412

Field Day 2005

Members of the 20 Meter Antenna Raising Party. (L to R) Steve KE4HFA, Chip WB4ZVR, Jeff AC4ZO, Bob W4TTX, Andy N4IS.



The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

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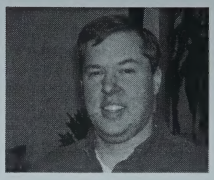
919-859-0029
ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

As you can tell with the pictures in this issue, we had plenty of fun at Field Day this year, I know I enjoyed every aspect of the event, from the operating, to the "roughing it" to the excellent picnic dinner.

If you got a taste of the contest operating and enjoyed it, I'd encourage you to try one of the "fun ones" coming up:

The North American QSO Party, CW, is the weekend of August 6-7. The NAQP Phone is two weeks later, August 20-21. For information on how to participate see www.ncjweb.com or drop me a line!

Speaking of which, I haven't seen any HF Challenge score reports yet! So, I'm willing to throw down the gauntlet, so to speak. After a furious weekend of operating , my score is:

NI4S: 2 US + 7 DX + 0 NC =9

So, I'm officially leading the "Little Pistol" category with a score of 9! Please, someone one-up-me — the bar is set low! Send me a score report just like that one and we'll start up a running count in the Exciter.

Until Next Month
73
Andy

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: ***Every first Tuesday of the Month***
Location: ***Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh***
Time: ***7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.***

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm RARS net

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETING:
Tuesday, August 2 2005 7:30 pm
10-10 Convention—Field Day Video

Wear Your Public Service T-Shirt Night

The August RARS meeting will be a 'Wear Your Public Service T-shirt Night.' All members are encouraged to participate. Let's see how many different events can be represented. Don't have a t-shirt? Come to the meeting anyway and see the various public service activities your fellow club members have been involved with. There are still plenty of events available to participate in this year. This should be fun and will hopefully renew interests in amateur radios role in public service.

EXCITER EXTRA

Are you reading the print version of the Exciter? There's more Field Day pictures and event coverage in the expanded PDF version of the RARS web site: www.rars.org/exciters

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

AUGUST 13 - The 13th Annual Pigskin Preview at Carter Finley Stadium in Raleigh from 9am-6pm. Contact—Dick kd4isc@arrl.net

OCTOBER 8—The 7th Annual Autism Ribbon Run. Location Downtown Raleigh. More info to come. Coordinator (OPEN)
Contact: Dick kd4isc@arrl.net

MS-150 Sat-Sun September 10-11. 40 hams are needed. Please make your motel reservations NOW. Need 40 hams for 2 days.
Check website for accommodations http://nationalmssociety.org/nct/home/
Contact: Bruce n8uty@arrl.net, to volunteer.

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

July 30	Waynesville, NC
August 13	Fayetteville, NC
September 3-4	Shelby, NC
October 9	Maysville, NC
November 20	**Benson, NC**
December 3	Gastonia, NC
January 6, 2006*	Winston-Salem
February 19*	Richmond, VA
February 25	Elkin, NC
March 5*	Kinston, NC

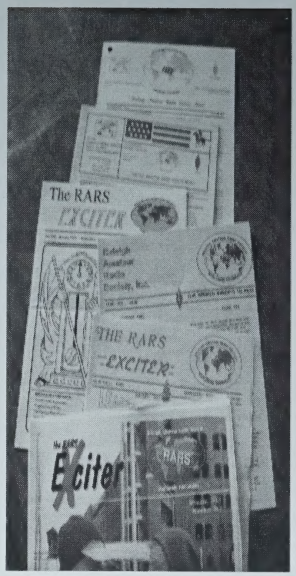
Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal
*Date is not confirmed

LOOKing Back 30 Years

From the August 1975 Exciter

There's a 2-meter price war. One manufacturer is now selling a bare-bones 2-meter rig under $150 list price, with all but one of the radios under $200.

The monthly public service project for RARS and Cary Radio Club members will be at the mall the third Friday of each month at 7:30pm. The mall appreciates our message handling activities as we enjoy the use of their facilities for our annual hamfests.



From the August 1995 Exciter

The new 5CRG ATV repeater is underway. The initial coordination work has been completed and processed by SERA. The initial frequency request was for 427.25 as the ATV repeater output (cable channel 58), 910.25 AM video/FM audio input, 1277.25 FM video/audio input, and 147.45 PL 88.5 aux. simplex audio input.

RARS DUES

RARS dues are now due on for 2005. You can pay online at the RARS website: www.rars.org, or send a check to

Greg Seamster KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606

AUGUST MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mel	K4FEP	08/08
Doug	N3VEJ	08/09
Clement	KD4BMA	08/09
Ray	WA4OMM	08/10
Andy	NI4S	08/10
Nola	KD4OLZ	08/12
Max	KO4TV	08/12
Paul	AE4MN	08/15
Bernard	W4BRB	08/17
Bert	WA4TLI	08/19
Suzanne	KI4ATA	08/20
Randy	KI4BRZ	08/20
Red	AC4QX	08/21
Steve	N4BTS	08/22
Steve	KJ4BX	08/23
Chip	KE4NPS	08/23
Al	K4GOE	08/25
Don	KF4REB	08/28
Edward	N4SSU	08/29
Charlie	W4VFJ	08/30
Chet	KG4IYS	08/30

NET REPORTS FOR JUNE 2005

8:00pm DAILY: RARS Evening Net

Participants 464
Traffic 30/25
Time 797 minutes
Sessions 31

8:30pm SAT: Tech & Traders Net
9:00pm MON: SWL/SIG

Participants 64
Traffic 0/0
Time 429 Minutes
Sessions 9

FIELD DAY COMMENTS

RARS Field Day is for fun, temporary station setup practice, emergency preparedness, fellowship and friendly competition.

You get ALL this in one weekend in June by participating in the annual ARRL/RARS Field Day outing for individuals and clubs across the nation. I have been involved in Field Day since I was waiting for my Novice License to arrive in the mail. It was the summer of 1953. My "elmer" W2BSH, now a Silent Key, had participated for years in the SARA (Schenectady, NY ARA—K2AE) Field Day efforts. I stayed up most of the night and finally, when most of the veteran ops had done their trick I had my chance to operate 80 Meter CW. Boy, were the stations sending fast! Well, I called CQ FD at 6 or 7 wpm and shook as 2 or 3 stations returned my call. With a little help I got the calls and broke the ice for my FD Ops. For gear SARA Members had built 3 100 Watt monoband transmitters, with 807s in the finals for just FD Ops, to be matched up with members' modern receivers, such as HRO 60s or NC 183Ds, even a BC348Q. Our FD site was atop an underground city water reservoir and dipoles were hung between tall metal light poles. I still contact 2AE each Field Day.

The Field Day Rules have changed a bit and the radio gear is so futuristic but the primary purpose, fun, setup, preparedness, fellowship and friendly competition are ALL still there for the asking. As years ago, the stations I set up are available for ALL to give it a try (voice or cw) or at least eavesdrop!

Chuck, K4HF
RARS Field Day Band Captain

****

I didn't operate at RARS Field Day, just shot some video. But I did operate from my mobile while running around. A lot of people have "N4AQ" in their log. I just couldn't get them to pay attention long enough to hear the "K". If I ever want to get serious about contesting, I'm going to have to change my callsign.

Gary KN4AQ

****

This year was our first Field Day "overnighter." It wasn't as hot this year as in the past so we decided to put up a tent and stay the night. After a little misadventure in putting up the tent (missing tent poles… quick trip home to find them) we finally got the tent up with little difficulty. We operated on both 20 meter phone and 80 meter phone. Denyse (a natural night owl) stayed up with Bob W4TTX till 4am on 20 meter phone, then went to bed for a couple of hours. Jim (who needs his "beauty sleep" much more than Denyse) pooped out around midnight. The Saturday night meal was great, with much fun, fellowship, and good food. It was also great to have lunch catered in on Sunday. Never have hot dogs and hamburgers tasted so good! We didn't have any rain (except a couple sprinkles) which made the weekend even more enjoyable. We hope more can join us next year. I know we can't wait!

Jim K4FIJ & Denyse K4DAW

Field Day Meeting
Meeting for the Captains and operators. Those in attendance (not all are in the photo):

Chip WB4ZVR	Rick KB4TKQ
Johnnie WA9SZL**	Sharon KO4ACK**
Mike WA4BPJ**	John Millsaps
Joey KE4DRJ	Katie KE4DRL
Dave K4SAN**	Joshua KF4ZXK
Neal N4HAF (Chairman)	Chuck K4HF**
Denyse K4DAW	Jim K4FIJ
Andy N4IS**	

Totals for Field Day

Total QSO's 3,143 , Total points 8,748. By comparison, last years effort yielded 2,590 QSO's and 7,682 points. In the 7A category last year, the winner had less qso's but more points (10K). This should place us in the top 5 in the 7A category, I believe.

Breakdown of QSO's by station:

160 CW/SSB	**24**
40 CW	**714**
40 PH	**1424**
20 CW&80/PH	**239**
20 PH	**540**
20 Digital	**62**
6M SSB	**140**

Congratulations to the Murphy's for their 40 meter phone effort, which set a personal record for their operation.
Submitted by Field Day Chairman Neal N4HAF

The K4JDR-KD4RAA Repeater Group
Expands the Carolina 440 UHF Link System to the Wilmington Coast.

David Wicker, N4JDW has a new UHF repeater located seven miles south of Clinton at 480 feet in the Taylors Bridge Community on the UHF link system. The cooperative effort of the 443.075+ 100 PL extends mobile coverage on Interstate 40 from just North of Hwy 55 at Newton Grove to Exit-398/Hwy 53 in Burgaw. The Wilmington 442.075 + 88.5 PL repeater will be on the full time link system sometime in July and will have mobile coverage to carry from Hwy 53/Burgaw to Wilmington and even into the Atlantic Ocean for those marine mobiles.

The 145.170+ 88.5 PL repeater in Wilmington will be on the link temporarily until the 442.075 is active. Once the UHF repeater is on line, the 2 meter repeater will have a link on demand only to the UHF system if ever needed.

The Carolina 440 Link system infrastructure is growing and still under construction. Improvements are being made as time permits. Presently the system has mobile coverage down all of Interstate 40 from Hillsborough to Wilmington and Interstate 85 from Hillsborough to US-1 just before the Virginia/NC State line. The system also has IRLP capabilities, Node 4270.

A repeater list can be viewed and printed at this URL: http://www.carolina440.net/ repeaters_on_link.htm

The system has a weekly Monday night net at 7:30 PM called the Carolina 440 Ragchew Net. For more information on the UHF Link System and The Repeater Group's projects, photo gallery, and technical info you can view these web sites:
http://www.carolina440.net and http://www.kd4raa.net

On the link as of June 2005

443.075+ 100 PL N4JDW, Clinton (Antenna pattern North)
444.150+ 100 PL K4JDR, Clayton (Antenna pattern South)
444.325+ 100 PL KF4AUF, Holly Springs (Antenna pattern Omni)
444.375+ 100 PL KB4WGA, Henderson (Antenna pattern Northeast)
444.550+ 100 PL K4JDR, Coats/Benson, (Antenna pattern Southwest)
444.775+ 100 PL K4JDR, Cary (Antenna pattern Northwest)
444.875+ 100 PL KD4RAA, Wendell (Antenna pattern Omni)
444.925+ 100 PL KB4WGA, Durham (Antenna pattern West)

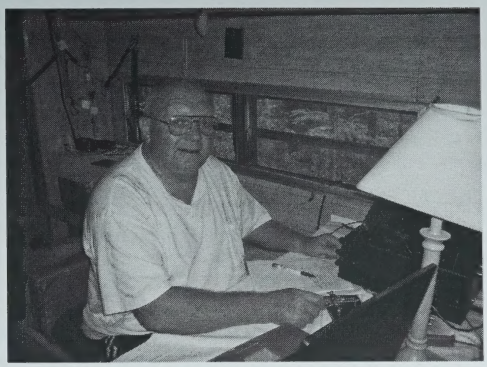
441.725+ 100 PL K4JDR, Raleigh-Fairgrounds Backbone Hub (Antenna pattern Northeast)

Ronnie J. Casey, k4jdr@arrl.net
NAV-COM Communications
84 Angie Road
Raleigh, N.C. 27603-7336
www.carolina440.net.com

FIELD DAY 2005 7A

A Special Thank You

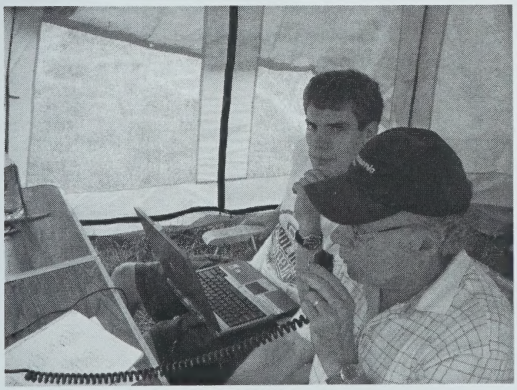
Thank you Beth KF4QMR and Jim N4CAE (at left) for the use of your property for the RARS Field day. We all appreciate it very much.



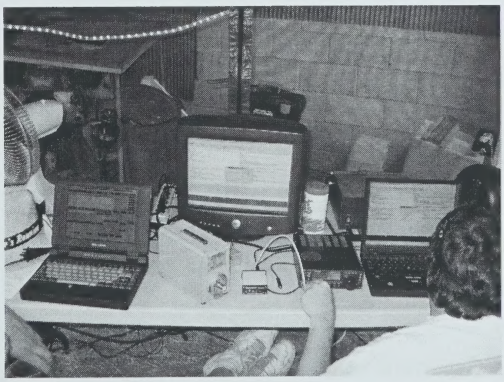
40 CW Charlie W4VJF
Photo by Mike WA4BPJ

20 Meter phone station. Andy NI4S, Jim K4FIJ, Steve KE4HFA. Photo by Denyse K4DAW

40 Meter station. Photo by Mike WA4BPJ



6 Meter station. David K4DAN & Joshua KF4ZXK
Photo by Denyse K4DAW



PSK– Digital station. Tim K4TIM
Photo by Mike WA4BPJ

General Meeting July 5, 2005

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.
Cecil Madden, KG4OQC and Tanner Lovelace, KB4TYE were welcomed as guests to the meeting.

Andy NI4S announced that the RARSfest workers party will be held on Saturday, July 9, beginning at 2 pm at Lake Wheeler Park. He then advised that the next club meeting will be a 'wear your favorite public service T-shirt' night. All members are encouraged to participate in order to generate interest in the fall public service season.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC, reported on the ham activity involved in 13th Annual The Spin Cycle 4th of July Firecracker 100K and 50K Bike Ride. He thanked the 9 hams who provided communications support for 970 bike riders involved in this event. A good time was had by all. He then advised those who needed to get a public service T-shirt for the next meeting of the Triangle Triathlon that will be held on Sunday, July 10 at Lake Crabtree Park. Those needing more information can consult the www.hampublicservice website.

Hank Montgomery, K4HM, provided additional details on the RARSfest workers party. The event will be held at shelter #2 at Lake Wheeler Park. The shelter is available at 2 pm and the meal will be served at 4 pm. RARS is providing chicken and drinks. Those attending are urged to bring a side dish and participate in a 'Best Side Dish' competition. Members were asked to RSVP by July 6. An email is being sent which includes directions to the park.

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report and advised there are 279 members of RARS. It is membership renewal time and 141 members have done so already.

Neal Fisher, N4HAF, provided a synopsis of last weekend's Field Day activities. He thanked all of those who participated. The club ran a 7-A event. There were 3143 QSOs logged and 8748 points accumulated. He also thanked Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, for the good PR coverage of the radio activities. Gary advised he would have a video available at the next meeting showing the Field Day activities and television coverage.

Andy NI4S reported that Bob K1RCB and Marian K1MRB Breyer have moved out of the area. He thanked Bob for his work as Public Service Coordinator and for the contributions made by both to local radio activities. Andy then made a motion to follow the Board's recommendation to award honorary membership to Bob and Marian. Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

The floor was turned over to Tanner Lovelace, KB4TYE, who gave a presentation on Geocaching. A cache was also hidden in the parking area for members to try out their GPS skills in locating it after the meeting.
Door prizes were won by: W8HYD, NC4VA and W2JNW.
Attendance: 32

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm. **(For more on Geocaching see Exciter Extra on www.rars.org.com/exciters)**
Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

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Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for May 2005

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on May 17, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board - Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Denyse Walter, K4DAW, Jim Walter, K4FIJ, Bob Breyer, K1RCB, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, Mary Holtschnieder, KG4OQA, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Bernard Blackmon, W4BRB, Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others - Marian Breyer, K1MRB.

Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. He then began the Vice President's report by advising an alternate class site had been secured. The new location has been arranged at a local church with the help of Virginia Enzor, NC4VA. A technician class will be held at this location on Saturdays beginning in mid June and continuing through July. Dick then reported that the June general meeting program would be conducted by Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, on Telegraphy.

Committee Reports

Education - Dick W8HYD advised there have been no updates on the Powell Elementary program initiated by Steve Jenkins, KA8HXX. RARS has submitted the funds for the school's ARRL Bookshelf.

Exciter - Denyse K4DAW reported the June Exciter is out early and articles are needed for the July edition.

Membership - Denyse K4DAW reported positive results in welcoming guests to the general meeting by introducing and seating them at a table with RARS members.

The committee reports were interrupted in order to approve the minutes of the April Board meeting. Jim K4FIJ made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Bernard W4BRB provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

PIO - Gary KN4AQ will generate publicity for field day.

FM - Gary KN4AQ advised all is well.

Nets - Mary KG4OQA advised the nets are going well.

Webmaster - Jon KG4ZVT reported that progress is being made in updating the RARS website. The club roster is available online as well as the HF challenge rules and information.

Hamfest - Hank K4HM advised the hamfest workers' party will be held on July 9th at Lake Wheeler Park. The club will have access to the shelter at 2 pm. The hamfest figures and financials are with Greg KE4PAX and will be discussed later. One of the interesting results of the questionnaire distributed at the hamfest revealed that the average age of this year's RARSfest attendee was 55.

Public Service - Bob K1RCB related his experience with a recent Red Cross and amateur radio public service meeting in Indianapolis. Bob also advised June would be his last meeting. Bernard W4BRB provided feedback from the Red Cross post State Fair meeting. They were pleased with the communications assistance provided by the club.

Greg KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report.

* There are currently 272 club members.
* RARS has $45,805 in cash assets.

Exciter version - Greg KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report and advised there are 272 club members.

Unfinished Business

The Board continued its review of the proposed budget for 2005 - 2006. After discussion and comments, Bernard W4BRB made a motion to present the proposed budget to the membership for approval at the June general meeting. A second was provided by Mary KG4OQA. The vote carried in favor of the motion.

Dick KD4ISC asked what notification of the budget vote was required and suggested for the membership. It was generally agreed that mention of the budget vote should be made on the club's webpage and could be announced on the nets.

A financial review committee is in place. The group will meet prior to the June Board meeting.

A nominating committee is needed for recommending a candidate for the Public Service Director position. Andy NI4S, Bob K1RCB and Chuck K4HF have or will offer to serve on this committee.

The saga of Bruce's (KC4UQN) missing extension cord continues. There is still no word from the church about its location. Dick W8HYD will follow-up.

The July 4th Firecracker Bike event still has no coverage.

New Business

Bob K1RCB asked the Board to consider purchasing the Midland base station business band radio he had purchased for the Red Cross to use during the State Fair. He then suggested that this radio be donated to the Red Cross for future State Fair coverage. After a lively discussion of this request, Bernard W4BRB made a motion to buy the Midland radio from Bob for $300 and then donate it to the Education group at the Triangle Chapter of the American Red Cross. Selene KG4RMT provided a second. A question arose as to which budget the funding would come from. The group was advised the money would come from this year's grants and donations budget. The vote was taken and the majority carried in favor of the motion.

General Comments

Bernard W4BRB reiterated the importance of supporting the Red Cross and reminded the group of the first aid equipment support provided for our hamfest.

Dick KD4ISC advised he helped provide the requested support for the motorcycle Ride for Kids benefiting pediatric brain tumor research. He and a few of the riders, who were also hams, provided the needed radio coverage. This is the first event that he has coordinated in which no one (outside of the riders) volunteered to help. Hopefully this is not a new trend.

Selene KG4RMT passed along her thanks to Bob K1RCB and Marian K1MRB for their RARS and ham radio service.

Hank K4HM reminded the group not to overlook new hams for public service coordination and volunteer work.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

13th Annual Firecracker Bike Ride

The 13th Annual The Spin Cycle 4th of July Firecracker 100K and 50K Bike Ride event was covered by 9 hams. An estimated 970 cyclists began and ended their rides in Cary to raise money for the National MS Society. Hams provided communications support as coordinator shadows, rest stop communicators and Support And Gear (SAG) drivers / route monitors. Those participating were: L to R Gary KN4AQ, Denyse K4DAW, Jim K4FIJ,Gil KG4YJG, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Dick KD4ISC. Special thanks go out to Danny K4ITL for the use of the 147.105 repeater which provided coverage for both courses. (not shown Mike AI4KR, (formally KC4WUH) and Al KE4IHX)

Just a few of the bikers at a rest stop in Apex. A post-race party was held at the Hibernian Restaurant & Pub in Cary, along with Goodberry's next door for dessert. If you haven't worked a public service event yet, you're missing out on great fun. Check out www.helpinghams.com for more information and to sign up for an event.

One major event that needs a lot of hams is the MS-150, a two day bike event in the eastern part of the state. Contact Bruce, n8uty@arrl.net, to volunteer.

Bottom photo by Denyse K4DAW Top photo: unknown

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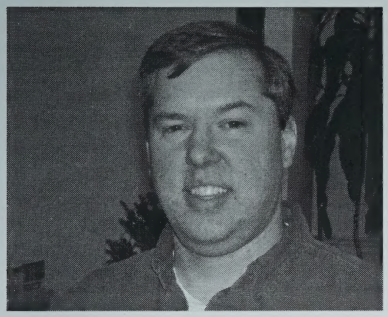

President of RARS

Andy N4IS

Residence: Raleigh, NC

When and why did you become a ham?

I became a ham in 1992, along with a friend of mine who suggested we should give it a try. We studied out of the books and took our tests in Aurora, Il.

Equipment owned:

My first HT was an Icom IC-W32A. I still own it and it works great! I now have a couple of legitimate mobiles (2m & dualband, all Icoms). For HF, I use a TS-850s Kenwood rig with a trapped dipole in the attic on 10, 15 and 20m. I also have a loop in the attic for the lower bands. I've been dabbling with some QRP rigs, but not seriously.

I still have an EMT license in NC. I used to help teach classes in college. I don't do much else with that (other than drive around with "netmedic" on my bumper in homage to my day job and hobby). My latest project takes a lot of time and attention—his name is Grant and he's 10 months old in June.

More bio on Andy can be found on www.qrz.com

The RARS
Exciter August 2005

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FIELD DAY 2005

What two very important things are required at field day? How about the most used house of the weekend, and FOOD to keep the energy level up so you can make contacts. Photos by Denyse K4DAW and Jim K4FIJ